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INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION
BUREAU OF STATISTICS

BULLETIN

CONCERNING THE

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN ON LARGE STEAM ROADS IN 1920



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WASHINGTON
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1921

U.S. INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION
BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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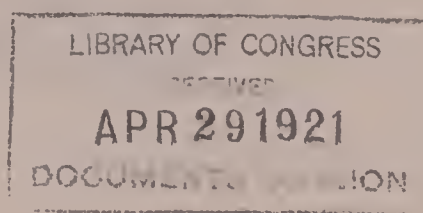
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THE INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION.¹

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GEORGE B. MCGINTY, Secretary.

¹Two vacancies.



EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN ON LARGE STEAM ROADS IN 1920.

INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION,
BUREAU OF STATISTICS,
February 16, 1921.

In this bulletin there are presented three tabular statements relative to the number of women employed by the larger railway companies, except switching and terminal companies, in the United States comprised in the class of carriers designated as Class I, which includes roads having annual operating revenues above \$1,000,000. The roads of this class, it appears, carry on their pay rolls about 96 per cent of all the employees of the steam railway companies in the United States. The items for the year 1920 in the statements below were compiled from returns made to the Interstate Commerce Commission in compliance with the requirements of Statistical Series Circular No. 9, issued under date of April 10, 1920, the introductory part of which is here reproduced.

Statistical Series Circular No. 9. Returnable by Oct. 31, 1920.

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN.

INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION,
Washington, April 10, 1920.

To Class I Carriers.

All steam railway companies, except switching and terminal companies, subject to the jurisdiction of the Interstate Commerce Commission, having annual railway operating revenues above \$1,000,000, are hereby required to furnish certain information relative to the employment of women in their service, by classes, on the first day of each quarter in the calendar year 1920, in accordance with the form provided herein.

It may be observed that the classes of employees and the dates of count in the form outlined are not consistent with the requirements of the classification of steam railway employees prescribed by the Interstate Commerce Commission with relation to the annual reports which steam railway companies are accustomed to render. This departure is due to the desirability of obtaining current facts concerning the employment of women in the railway service that will be suitable for comparison with similar statistics pertaining to quarterly dates in 1919, published by the United States Railroad Administration, Division of Labor, in a tabular report showing, for so-called Class I roads, the "Number of women employed and character of their employment," according to virtually the same classes of employees that are listed on following pages of this circular for correspondent dates in 1920.

Each respondent is requested to send a complete return, as provided in Statistical Series Circular No. 9, to the Bureau of Statistics, Interstate Commerce Commission, by October 31, 1920. A duplicate copy should be retained.

GEORGE B. MCGINTY, *Secretary.*

The Commission's statistics for 1920 were compiled with relation to three so-called districts, the Eastern, the Southern, and the Western. These districts are substantially defined in the following description:

The Eastern District comprises that portion of the United States bounded on the west by the northern and the western shore of Lake Michigan to Chicago, thence by a line to Peoria, thence to East St. Louis, thence down the Mississippi River to the mouth of the Ohio River, and on the south by the Ohio River from its mouth to Parkersburg, W. Va., thence by a line to the southwestern corner of Maryland, thence by the Potomac River to its mouth. The Southern District comprises that portion of the United States bounded on the north by the Eastern District and on the west by the Mississippi River. The remainder of the United States, exclusive of Alaska and of the island possessions, is included in the Western District.

It should be observed that the roads covered by the compilations of the Interstate Commerce Commission for 1920 are in most cases the same as the roads to which the United States Railroad Administration figures for 1919 and 1918 apply, with a few differences in their territorial grouping. The exceptions, however, are apparently not important enough to impair the utility of the statistics for the purposes of general comparison.

For the year 1918 the Railroad Administration published a report that was similar to its 1919 report mentioned above, and from summarized statements in these reports, both of which give statistics by roads, the information was derived on which the averages for the classes of employment shown for the years 1919 and 1918 in the next statement were based.

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN ON LARGE STEAM ROADS IN 1920.

STATEMENT No. 1.—Average number of women in general classes of employment on Class I roads, for calendar years 1920, 1919, and 1918.¹

No.	Class.	United States. ²			Eastern District. ²			Southern District. ²			Western District. ²		
		1920	1919	1918	1920	1919	1918	1920	1919	1918	1920	1919	1918
1	Attendants.....	1,010	1,431	1,412	497	802	801	58	69	105	455	560	506
2	Bridge and lock tenders.....	2	6	8	0	5	7	2	1	1	0	0	0
3	Car department.....	1,428	1,108	628	741	522	203	116	82	43	571	504	382
4	Clerical or semiclerical.....	69,317	68,014	58,532	34,719	36,843	31,595	9,579	7,835	6,415	25,019	23,336	20,522
5	Cleaning.....	4,896	4,905	4,351	2,760	2,870	2,517	740	707	645	1,396	1,328	1,189
6	Elevator operators.....	82	97	41	45	61	31	10	12	2	27	24	8
7	Messenger service.....	481	622	520	298	400	348	11	15	13	172	207	159
8	Personal service.....	2,485	2,541	2,488	839	1,051	1,132	308	314	260	1,338	1,176	1,096
9	Roundhouse work.....	866	815	763	504	350	248	52	68	89	310	397	426
10	Shopwork.....	1,363	1,570	2,787	953	1,081	2,096	191	144	128	219	345	563
11	Signal service.....	72	175	121	48	163	107	9	5	2	15	7	12
12	Station agents, assistants, agent operators.....	1,208	1,155	284	365	334	90	370	376	97	473	445	97
13	Supervisors of women employees.....	103	91	74	50	49	42	9	7	8	44	35	24
14	Switch tenders and other yard work.....	19	27	25	15	21	21	3	1	1	1	5	3
15	Telegraph operators (handling other than train messages).....	764	1,983	1,959	358	810	908	58	137	101	348	1,036	950
16	Telegraph and telephone operators (handling train orders, blocking and reporting trains).....	1,946	1,630	1,762	709	729	760	152	92	100	1,085	809	902
17	Train service.....	1	76	56	1	76	56	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Warehouses and docks.....	290	462	763	128	195	385	53	88	152	109	179	226
19	Watchwomen.....	559	619	312	504	558	280	8	12	5	47	49	27
20	Other service.....	565	281	898	319	140	415	50	35	200	196	106	283
	Total.....	87,457	87,608	77,784	43,853	47,060	42,042	11,779	10,000	8,367	31,825	30,548	27,375

¹ See general explanations on page 3.² Averages for 1919 and 1918 based on reports of the United States Railroad Administration, showing statistics by territories substantially the same as the districts described on page 3.

The absence of complete statistics as to the number of women employed in railway service prior to 1918 prevents any deduction as to the probable increase in the number so employed as an effect of the World War, but the number is generally known to have been large. It is interesting to note that in 1919, after the return to civil life of the majority of men who had been in the military service, the average number of women in railway service was greater than before, the increase in 1919 being 12.6 per cent over 1918, and the average number in 1920 only 151 less than in 1919.

It appears that the tendency, in general, is to employ more women in those occupations for which they are physically suited, and to drop them from those for which they are, as a rule, physically unsuited.

The two following tabular statements pertaining to the year 1920 seem to require no explanatory comment. They substantially correspond to summaries included in the Railroad Administration reports for 1919 and 1918 to which reference has already been made.

STATEMENT No. 2.—Number of women in general classes of employment on Class I roads, by districts, on stated quarterly dates in 1920.¹

Class.	United States—1920.				Eastern District—1920.				Southern District—1920.				Western District—1920.			
	Jan. 1.	Apr. 1.	July 1.	Oct. 1.	Jan. 1.	Apr. 1.	July 1.	Oct. 1.	Jan. 1.	Apr. 1.	July 1.	Oct. 1.	Jan. 1.	Apr. 1.	July 1.	Oct. 1.
1. Attendants.....	1,085	970	1,029	953	590	456	500	440	58	54	55	63	437	460	474	450
2. Bridge and lock tenders.....	1	2	3	1					1	2	3	1				
3. Car department.....	1,344	1,344	1,532	1,492	710	689	802	764	94	105	133	131	540	550	597	597
4. Clerical or semiclerical.....	66,845	68,002	70,786	71,637	34,273	33,810	35,021	35,774	9,170	9,458	9,807	9,883	23,402	24,734	25,958	25,980
5. Cleaning.....	4,783	4,694	5,108	4,998	2,634	2,591	2,933	2,883	759	702	745	755	1,390	1,401	1,430	1,360
6. Elevator operators.....	94	76	78	80	52	41	45	43	12	9	10	10	30	26	23	27
7. Messenger service.....	526	481	474	442	344	294	278	275	12	12	10	11	170	175	186	156
8. Personal service.....	2,264	2,410	2,625	2,638	740	833	895	886	311	326	299	295	1,213	1,251	1,431	1,457
9. Roundhouse work.....	743	851	958	913	382	491	580	561	46	52	55	57	315	308	323	295
10. Shopwork.....	1,158	1,385	1,554	1,357	789	958	1,097	967	166	204	211	185	203	223	246	205
11. Signal service.....	136	48	54	49	111	24	29	29	10	9	8	7	15	15	17	13
12. Station agents, assistants, agent operators.....	1,208	1,214	1,246	1,165	355	371	380	355	374	366	367	375	479	477	499	435
13. Supervisors of women employees.....	100	103	106	101	43	51	55	52	10	8	8	8	47	44	43	41
14. Switch tenders and other yard work.....	17	22	17	21	12	18	13	18	3	3	3	3	2	1	1	
15. Telegraph operators (handling other than train messages).....	827	738	716	774	408	336	334	354	74	52	48	56	345	350	334	364
16. Telegraph and telephone operators (handling train orders, blocking and reporting trains).....	1,884	1,924	2,001	1,978	684	709	733	712	141	158	151	157	1,059	1,057	1,117	1,109
17. Train service.....	3	1		2									1	1		
18. Warehouses and docks.....	299	290	294	278	137	129	132	117	45	45	53	68	117	116	109	93
19. Watchwomen.....	593	543	549	548	551	477	489	499	9	9	8	7	38	57	52	42
20. Other service.....	512	543	578	627	295	294	329	356	50	54	47	50	167	195	202	221
Total.....	84,427	85,641	89,708	90,052	43,112	42,572	44,645	45,085	11,345	11,628	12,021	12,122	29,970	31,441	33,042	32,845

¹ Switching and terminal companies excepted.

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN ON LARGE STEAM ROADS IN 1920.

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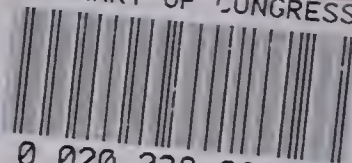
STATEMENT No. 3.—Number of women employees of Class I roads according to primary classes of employment for dates of Jan. 1, Apr. 1, July 1, and Oct. 1, 1920.¹

Class.	United States—1920.				Class.	United States—1920.			
	Jan. 1.	Apr. 1.	July 1.	Oct. 1.		Jan. 1.	Apr. 1.	July 1.	Oct. 1.
1. Attendants:					9. Roundhouse work—Continued.				
Bureau of information.....	99	77	82	76	Supplying engines.....	7	8	7	4
Storeroom.....	536	533	566	530	Turntable operators.....	16	7	9	8
Tool room.....	346	266	286	246	Wiping engines.....	158	185	211	197
Other attendants.....	33	31	30	31	Laborers.....	57	89	132	119
Station (including station helpers).....	71	63	65	70	Total.....	743	851	958	913
Total.....	1,085	970	1,029	953					
2. Bridge and lock tenders:					10. Shopwork:				
Day work.....	1	1	2	1	Blacksmiths, helpers.....	11	9	12	9
Night work.....		1	1		Boilermakers, helpers.....	1	1		
Total.....	1	2	3	1	Coppersmiths, sheet-metal workers, pipe fitters, helpers.....	11	13	15	14
3. Car department:					Electricians, helpers.....	16	20	20	21
Coach and car carpenters, helpers.....	1	2	2	1	Molders, coremakers, helpers.....	7	7	7	8
Coach and car equipment painters, helpers.....	87	77	89	93	Machinists, helpers.....	97	86	86	62
Coach and car inspectors, helpers.....	3				Clerks.....	684	730	765	750
Coach and car repairers, helpers.....	18	7	7	10	Laborers, inside work.....	143	254	326	288
Pattern makers, helpers.....	4	3	3	3	Laborers, outside work (including scrap dock work).....	188	265	323	205
Upholsterers and seamstresses.....	56	53	55	53	Total.....	1,158	1,385	1,554	1,357
Other car work.....	102	103	116	104					
Clerks.....	786	772	802	827	11. Signal service:				
Laborers.....	287	327	458	401	Maintenance.....	100	11	10	8
Total.....	1,344	1,344	1,532	1,492	Manipulation, day work (except telephone)....	25	19	25	25
4. Clerical or semiclerical:					Manipulation, night work (except telephone)....	11	18	19	16
Accountants.....	481	530	521	522	Total.....	136	48	54	49
Cashiers.....	604	642	656	666					
Clerks, stenographers, typists, comptometer operators.....	60,487	61,737	64,350	65,245	12. Station agents, assistants, agent operators.....	1,208	1,214	1,246	1,165
Draftswomen and assistants.....	180	173	170	167	13. Supervisors of women employees.....	100	103	106	101
Telephone operators (except in train movement).....	2,388	2,303	2,416	2,380	14. Switch tenders and other yard work.....	17	22	17	21
Ticket sellers and clerks.....	864	803	804	766					
Other office clerks (including operators of office equipment devices).....	1,841	1,814	1,869	1,891	15. Telegraph operators (handling other than train messages):				
Total.....	66,845	68,002	70,786	71,637	Day work.....	651	569	549	588
5. Cleaning:					Night work.....	176	169	167	186
Car cleaners, inside.....	2,620	2,489	2,859	2,727	Total.....	827	738	716	774
Car cleaners, outside.....	293	314	331	314					
Station and office cleaners (including janitresses).....	1,752	1,745	1,731	1,789	16. Telegraph and telephone operators (handling train orders, blocking and reporting trains):				
Shop cleaners.....	41	63	70	70	Day work.....	964	996	1,043	969
Other cleaners.....	77	83	117	98	Night work.....	920	928	958	1,009
Total.....	4,783	4,694	5,108	4,998	Total.....	1,884	1,924	2,001	1,978
6. Elevator operators.....	94	76	78	80					
7. Messenger service:					17. Train service.....	3	1		
Day work.....	321	315	334	304					
Night work.....	205	166	140	138	18. Warehouses and docks:				
Total.....	526	481	474	442	Billing and report clerks (including checkers or tally clerks).....	219	213	220	223
8. Personal service:					Yard clerks, outside work.....	33	34	23	21
Cooks, dishwashers, stewardesses, waitresses (including dining-car service).....	1,296	1,364	1,530	1,601	Laborers.....	47	43	51	34
Hospital nurses.....	52	53	52	57	Total.....	299	290	294	278
Housekeepers.....	17	19	21	20					
Laundresses, employees in linen rooms.....	191	229	236	252	19. Watchwomen:				
Maids and matrons.....	607	637	672	642	Crossings, day work.....	573	498	506	503
Other service.....	101	108	114	66	Crossings, night work.....	9	13	11	13
Total.....	2,264	2,410	2,625	2,638	Other watchwomen, day work.....	11	24	24	27
9. Roundhouse work:					Other watchwomen, night work.....	5	8	8	5
Calling crews by telephone.....	2	7	9	8	Total.....	598	543	549	548
Cleaning headlights and lanterns.....	3	38	62	62					
Roundhouse clerks.....	500	517	528	515	20. Other service:				
					Mail carriers.....	98	122	123	132
					Pumpers.....	32	32	31	29
					Miscellaneous employees.....	382	389	424	466
					Total.....	512	543	578	627
					Grand total.....	84,427	85,641	89,708	90,052

¹ Switching and terminal companies excepted.

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